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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Schmidt et al.

Serial No:

09/552,105

Confirmation No: Filed:

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For:

April 19, 2000

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Examiner:

Nguyen, P.H.

Art Unit:

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 11 day of January, 2004.

Signature

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 5, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 1 of this amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this amendment.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this amendment.